

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Mary Young

DEAR FRIENDS. With the passing of Valerie Shepherd, Seaford Little Theatre's Life President and one of only two surviving founder members, we have come to the end of an era lasting 72 years. Valerie was a talented actress and director who, with a small group of other keen amateurs set up the Seaford Dramatic Society, lavishing untold hours of effort to building our Little Theatre and its local reputation. She last appeared on stage in our 60th Anniversary Production of Noël Coward's *Waiting in the Wings* holding the audience spellbound during the fire scene. Always a wise councillor, she attended committee and only missed one AGM in all the years. We send our condolences to her daughter, Penny and grandsons, Vaughan and Alex. Valerie's death was announced to the audience at the end of the last night of the Music Hall and they gave a round of applause in tribute.

Three other past members have also passed away recently: Doreen James, who acted directed and had a talent for comedy,

Nina Yarnton, who with her husband, Robin lead the cast of many productions in the 80's and Beryl Dollin who acted and was one of our most precise directors for some years. We extend condolences to all their families.

This has been a busy summer and thanks go to Garry Fowler and everyone involved in the July production of *Trap for a Lonely Man*. The set and costumes were especially eye catching thanks to team Lade; thank you Alan and Deborah. Alan, with a small team of helpers has worked through the summer on the mammoth task of re-covering our ageing flats and what a difference that is going to make to painting them, as well looking at them on set!

Our revue, *A Little Bit of Music Hall*, was great fun with hours of work put in by those involved, particularly, Graham Tubb, the director, lead singer and dancer! Audiences showed their appreciation and we are grateful too! Funds raised were shared between the RNLI, the Seaford Lifeguards and our theatre.

On the social side our Summer Barbecue and Talent Show was another big attraction and thanks this time go to Debbie Cox, Ray and their helpers in the social team for a most enjoyable event. We are looking forward to the Murder Mystery evening that is in preparation.

Rehearsals for *Rumours* are well underway after some initial hiccups. We are looking forward to another funny November production. Once again, we have had to rethink the programme

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OUR NEXT PRODUCTION – *RUMOURS* by Neil Simon

It is the tenth wedding anniversary of prominent government official Charles Brooks and his wife Vivien, and they are having a special celebration dinner with six of their best friends. First to turn up are barrister Ken and his wife Chris, but the hostess has disappeared, the host lies bleeding on his bed and it seems something terrible has occurred. With the arrival of the rest of the guests - accountant Len and his wife Claire, TV chef Cookie and her psychologist husband Earnest, and prospective MP Glenn and his partner Cassie - confusions multiply, tempers fray and the evening descends into chaos. Can the police impose some sort of order on the turmoil?



Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and friends of the theatre are available in advance from Friday 13 October 2017 at our box office:

**REDGOLD OPTICIANS,
32 Broad Street, Seaford, BN25 1ND.**

Please note that Redgolds are not able to take any bookings over the telephone. They have very kindly given their services as a place where tickets can be purchased in person, but they are also a business and we would respectfully request that anyone wishing to make enquiries about tickets should do so using the number below.

This is a classic farce by that master of comedy Neil Simon which is directed by Margaret Kennedy, and promises some sharp and sparkling comedy to brighten up your November.

We have two more new performers to Seaford in the cast, Lisa Fairfield and Emma Davis as well as a host of favourites, including Jenny Humphries, Lee Coleman-Powney, Josie Hobbs, John Terry, Wendy and Dennis Picott, Steve Wetherilt and Alan Lade. Audience members should be aware that gunshots will be heard during the performance and there is some strong language in parts.

It opens on Friday 10 November 2017 and runs through to the following Saturday 18 November, with a matinée on Saturday 11 November. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinée will start at 2.30pm.

Postal applications should now be sent to: Diane Guyatt, 31 Pondsde Court, Sutton Drove, Seaford, BN25 3ET

They must be accompanied by a cheque made out to 'Seaford Dramatic Society' and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If the position you request is not possible the nearest available seats will be sent.

It is also possible to reserve tickets by email for collection and payment on the door. Send your application to:

tickets@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Again if the position you request is not possible the nearest available seats will be reserved.

The ticket prices are £9.00 each for the tiered seats and £8.00 each for all other seats.

For general enquiries regarding the next production please ring Mary Young 07891 691341

for next season as the choice of play for February was unavailable for amateurs when we applied for the license. However, another well written comedy drama has been chosen for Trish Richings directorial debut. I hope she will have lots of support and look forward to seeing many of you at the audition for *A Slight Hangover* on the 17 October.

This is my last view, as I step down at the AGM on 27 October after the allotted three years. I would like to thank all the members of the Management Committee for their support and efforts in that time. I know a number of you have some good ideas for promoting our theatre and hope there will be lots of volunteers to join the new committee. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM

Best wishes, Mary.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE



Firstly a huge thank you to everyone who supported and participated in our inaugural Seaford's Got Talent. The good news is that we weren't prosecuted by Trading Standards - Seaford does indeed have talent. Food was prepared and cooked with assistance from Cicely and Deborah and, although the fire brigade was put on standby, the rising damp prevented any major catastrophes. Another round of applause goes to our judging panel of Toni, Dennis and Jayne who rightly gave the ultimate award to the glittering act that was Skyia and Brettany. Jayne also donated a huge cake which demonstrated its own magic act by disappearing - fast. And finally a big thank you to everyone who pitched in at the end to clear up. Next year's date has been pencilled in for 11 August 2018 so start practising now.

Now some dates for your diary for our upcoming social events. Hope to see you there ...

MONDAY 23 OCTOBER

Halloween Coffee Morning **Seaford Little Theatre from 10.00am**

Get dressed down in your finest cobwebs and rags. We are having another ghostly coffee morning to welcome in Halloween. Lots of fun and games and plenty of hocus pocus., including a grizzly quiz by the spooktacular Alan Lade to get your fangs into. Limited parking for broomsticks available.



SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER

Rumours Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production *Rumours*. Please, as usual, bring some food and whatever you want to drink to help celebrate, with the cast and crew of the production, after what I am sure will be another success.

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Theatre Clean Up **Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm**

All cast and crew members of *Rumours* to please attend to clean and tidy up the Theatre after this production. The costumes, props etc., will need to be returned and need to be sorted beforehand and the Theatre to be cleaned through. There will also be a get together afterwards for a meal.

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER

Playing with Fire Retro Xmas Disco **Seaford Little Theatre 7.30pm**

Roll back the years with this 50's and 60's disco and quiz night. Non-stop nostalgia for those who lived through it and a revelation for those who hadn't been born yet. All under the steady hand of a professional DJ with 25 years experience. The cost is £8 per person, to include a buffet with pudding. Bring your own drinks (and dancing shoes) or buy wine by the bottle at the bar. note: there may be flashing lights. please let us know ASAP if you are coming and have any dietary requirements.



For further details about any of the Social activities, or if you have any comments/suggestions please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at coxdeb8@gmail.com. Thank you for your continuing support.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, Debbie

PLAY READING GROUP

We always look forward to welcoming new members to our play reading sessions on the first Tuesday of the month at 19.30 in the Coffee Lounge. There is a nominal charge of £1 for refreshments.

In September we read the classic *An Inspector Calls*. In contrast, *The 39 Steps*, our May production play, was the October choice. Our first Tuesday time slot clashes with dress rehearsals for *Rumours*, so there will be no November play reading. We hope to put in an extra evening to read *A Slight Hangover* before the audition night and this should be advertised online. *Old Actors Never Die: They Simply Lose the Plot* by Lynne Brittney is the play readers' choice for 5 December.



For those of you who know how to write, contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. Send your pieces to:

Email: mail@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

*Snail Mail: 25 Sherwood Road,
Seaford
BN25 3EH*



▶ **Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 29 DECEMBER 2017** ◀



Valerie (Val) Shepherd

President and Founder Member

Seaford Little Theatre (Seaford Dramatic Society)

1920 to 2017.

By her daughter Penny Cockell.

What happens when a young woman, artistic, articulate, energetic, with a great love of the spoken word – particularly when shared and acted out upon the stage is denied her deeply held ambition to follow that pathway?

In my Mother's case it resulted in the formation of the Seaford Dramatic Society with 34 others of like mind who began the journey of this living, breathing theatre company in November 1945. Most of those who were a part of this have now died – Gloria Roberts née Bray is here still however to 'carry the torch' for them all.

The history is written and available on the website – one written by Val for the 50th Anniversary in 1995 and another updating this and including my memories for the 70th Anniversary in 2015.

Val's C.V. is recorded in the books in the coffee lounge at the Little Theatre with programmes and write-ups of all the productions from the very beginning – she features in most of them either acting, directing, stage managing etc. etc. She served as Chairman for several years at the very beginning and again later on. Ted (her husband, my Dad) was there always, one of the builders of sets, painters of the building and on the Committee as Chairman also for some years.

Although due to failing eyesight she was unable to take any part as an actor after the 60th Anniversary Production in 2005 where she played Sarita in ***Waiting in the Wings*** by Noël Coward, she was still able to attend Committee Meetings, Productions and give advice to anyone who sought her opinion regarding diction, characterisation, set design, or movement of characters on stage. It was always her desire to share her love and determination that every play produced should be the very best that it was possible to make it and encourage all involved in any way with the production to understand that this is always a team effort and relies on everyone to ensure a successful outcome.

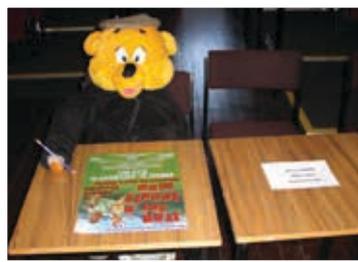
I can do no better than to conclude with her words written in 1995 for the 50th Anniversary

'To all members, especially the younger ones, I say this.....

“ The future of our Theatre is yours – look after it, work hard with dedication and enjoy the fruits of your labours – the rewards are many. ”

Photos from the set of
Trap For a Lonely Man
taken by Andrew Parkinson
www.rememberingwhen.co.uk

Only The Lonely



Audition Date: Tuesday 17 October 2017 - 7.30pm - Seaford Little Theatre
Production dates: 16 - 24 February 2018

It is 1985. Orson Woodley and Sir Lewis Messenger share a house in the West Indies, their beloved Giselle having died some years before. Their lives are peaceful and routine, until Olga, Giselle's daughter, arrives and begins an investigation – which man is her father? The presence of Amanda, Olga's daughter and the spitting image of Giselle, brings even more memories to the surface. The exploration of this unusual family's history is both funny and moving.

CHARACTERS	
FREDDY MILLSAP	60's A waiter at the Park Place Hotel in London. Very Particular in dress and manner – in fact in everything he does.
ORSON WOODLEY	70's A "Dennis the Menace" octogenarian, very untidy. Artist.
OLGA WHITEHALL	50 years old and daughter of the late Giselle. Journalist.
MITCHELL CORBO	30's Good looking American. Literary Agent for Sir Lewis.
SIR LEWIS MESSENGER	70's Immaculately dressed, white haired, writer/playwright.
AMANDA WHITEHALL	Olga's daughter – 20-30

Rehearsals will be on Mondays and Thursdays.

Scripts are available from the theatre (Coffee lounge). Please read, copy any passages you require and return so that other people can access a script.

AUDITION PIECES	
FREDDY	Pages 2 - 4, 44 - 45
ORSON	Pages 9 - 11, 29 - 30
OLGA	Pages 2 - 4, 10 - 11
MITCHELL	Pages 3 - 4, 9 - 11, 29 - 30
SIR LEWIS	Pages 9 - 11, 29 - 30, 44 - 45
AMANDA	Pages 29 - 30, 44 - 45

If you are interested but unable to attend the audition date, please contact me so that we can arrange an alternative. If you are able to help behind the scenes, I would also be very pleased to hear from you.

Trish Richings Tel: 07948 382530 or 01825 872626 Email: 59pixie@gmail.com

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

Satisfy people's desire for the ridiculous and they will accept your idea of the sublime.

Maurice Willson Disher, Clowns & Pantomimes

PROGRAMME FOR THE NEW SEASON

The programme for 2018 is as follows:

- ▶ 16 - 24 February **A SLIGHT HANGOVER** by Ian Olgilvy, directed by Trish Richings
- ▶ 18 - 26 May **THE 39 STEPS** by John Buchan, adapted by Patrick Barlow, directed by Dennis Piccott
- ▶ 27 July - 4 August **IN PRAISE OF LOVE** by Terence Rattigan, directed by Margaret Kennedy
- ▶ 09 - 17 November **MURDER ON THE NILE** by Agatha Christie, directed by Garry Fowler

For a full colour version of this newsletter and lots of other information visit the Seaford Little Theatre Website on www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Seaford Little Theatre will be held at The Little Theatre, Steyne Road, Seaford, on Friday, 27th October 2017 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 28th OCTOBER 2016. (Copy available for inspection at The Little Theatre).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. To vote on:
Any other resolutions to be given to the Hon. Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting.
6. Election of Executive Officers of the Management Committee.

Chairman:
Vice-Chairman:
Hon. Treasurer:
Hon. Secretary:
Premises Manager:
Friends' Secretary:
Membership Secretary:
Social Secretary:
Public Relations Secretary:

ALL NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BY THE HON. SECRETARY **BEFORE** THE START OF THE MEETING.

7. Election of Management Committee Members (4): 2 Vacancies.
(Rule 8. Management. a. (ii) Four other members of the Society elected for 2 years, two of whom shall retire annually in rotation.), There are two vacancies.

ALL NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED **BEFORE** START OF THE MEETING.

8. To close the A. G. M.
9. Questions and discussion. (Notice to be given to the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer **prior** to the commencement of the meeting.)

Sylvia Aston (Hon. Secretary), 01323 490444 or aston@asyvia7.orangehome.co.uk or Margaret Kennedy (Hon. Treasurer) 01323 894938

Wine and Cheese will be provided for members at the close of the meeting.

OCTOBER 2017

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Membership fees for the forthcoming year are due, as always, on 1 November, so please make use of the form below to get them renewed. Either hand it over at the AGM or send it direct to Penny Cockell.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name(s) _____

I/We wish to renew my/our membership of Seaford Little Theatre for 2018. I/We enclose our subscription fee.

Membership fee for the coming year is £10.00 per person (students - £5.00 p.a.)

Please return this form with the appropriate amount (cheques payable to Seaford Dramatic Society) to:

Penny Cockell (Membership Secretary) 30 St Crispins, Seaford, BN25 2DY

Tel: 01323 897517 Email: memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Seaford Little Theatre

Nomination Form for the Election of Officers and Management Committee Members at the AGM on 27th October 2017

Please make sure the Nominee is willing to stand before proposing them.



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____

*Posts are: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Membership Secretary, Friends' Secretary, Premises Manager, Social Secretary, Public Relations Secretary and members can be nominated as Committee Members.

PLEASE RETURN TO THE HON. SECRETARY, SYLVIA ASTON, AT THE THEATRE BEFORE THE AGM
OPENS AT 7.30pm ON 27th OCTOBER 2017